Purchase of MIG-29K fighters

2077. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase 16 MIG-29K fighters from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how would it help strengthen our Army in defence preparedness; and

(d) what are the terms and conditions of such a deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A contract for the purchase of 16 MiG 29K aircraft from Russian Federation for the Indian Navy was signed on 20.1.2004. The value of the contract is 740.350 Million US Dollars. The delivery of the aircraft will commence from June 2007. The induction of MiG 29K aircraft would provide integral air capability to the Navy for airborne missions at sea at extended ranges from coast line. Offensive air strike against shore targets would be in direct support of land operations by the army.

Funds for Special Forces modernisation

2078. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had decided to allocate funds for Special Forces modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to engage the Special Forces for conducting a range of operations in land, water and air; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The modernisation of the armed forces including Special Forces is a constant process, for which funds are continually allocated by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Special Forces of the Armed Forces are trained and equipped for land, sea and air borne operations, based on threat perceptions and operational requirements.